What is claimed is

1. A process for the preparation of luminescent polymeric fibres characterised in that the fibres are treated with a composition comprising

(a) one or more luminescent lanthanide chelates containing three or four organic anionic ligands having at least one UV absorbing group and

(b) one or more solvents.

2. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula I

$$L_m\text{-}Ln^{3+}(Ch^-)_n \qquad (I),$$

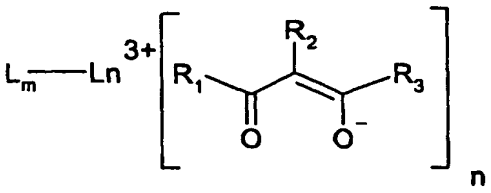
wherein Ln represents a lanthanide,

Ch^- is a negatively charged ligand containing at least one UV absorbing double bond,

n denotes 3 or 4, m denotes a number from 0 to 4,

in case n is 3, m denotes a number from 0 to 4 and L is a neutral monodentate or polydentate nitrogen-, oxygen- or sulfur-containing ligand or, in case n is 4, m denotes 1 and L is a single-charged cation.

3. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula II, III or IV



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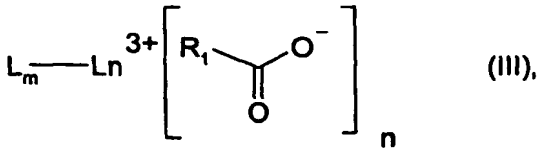


(III),

$$L_m\text{-}Ln^{3+}[R_1\text{-}O^-]_n \qquad (IV),$$

wherein Ln represents a lanthanide,

n denotes 3 or 4, m denotes a number from 0 to 4

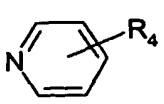
in case n is 3, m denotes a number from 0 to 4 and L is a neutral monodentate or polydentate nitrogen-, oxygen- or sulfur-containing ligand or, in case n is 4, m denotes 1 and L is a single-charged cation,

R_2, is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl, and

R_1 and R_3 are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, CF_3, C_5-C_{24}aryl or C_4-C_{24}heteroaryl.

4. A process according to claim 2 or 3 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula I, II, III or IV wherein n denotes 3 and L is a nitrogen-containing ligand.

5. A process according to claim 2 or 3 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula I, II, III or IV wherein L is a compound of formulae V to XII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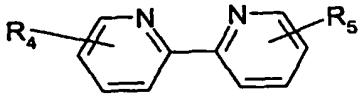
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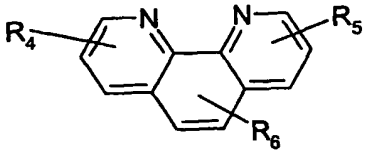
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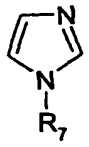
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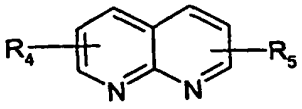
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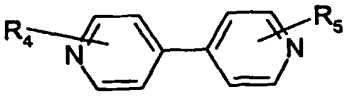
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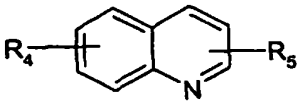
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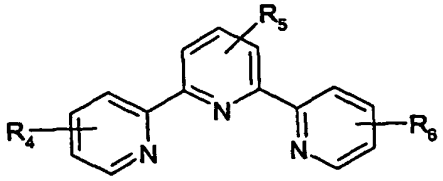

(XII),

or a cation of the formula $H\text{-}N^+(R_7)_3$,

wherein R_4, R_5 and R_6 are each independently of the other hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_5-C_{24}aryl, C_6-C_{24}aralkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, amino, dialkylamino or a cyclic amino group and R_7 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_5-C_{24}aryl, C_6-C_{24}aralkyl or vinyl.

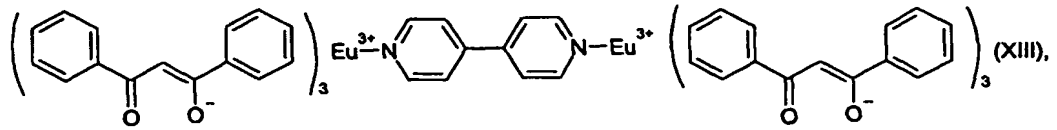
6. A process according to claim 5 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula II wherein L is a compound of formula V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI or XII wherein R_4, R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen, methyl, amino, pyrrolidino or dimethylamino or L is a cation of the formula $H\text{-}N^+(R_7)_3$.wherein R_7 is C_1-C_6alkyl.

7. A process according to claim 2 or 3 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula I, II, III or IV wherein Ln is Eu, Tb, Dy, Sm or Nd.

8. A process according to claim 3 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula II or III wherein R_1 and R_3 are methyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl or phenyl.

9. A process according to claim 3 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula II wherein R_2 is hydrogen.

10. A process according to claim 3 characterized in that component (a) is a compound of formula XIII to LII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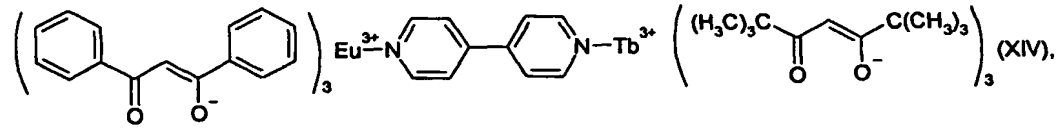
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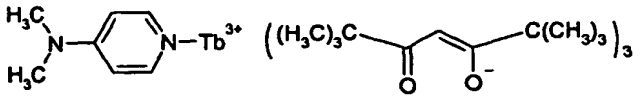
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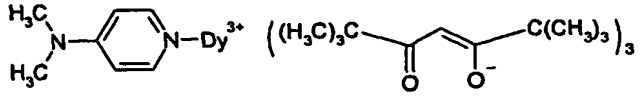
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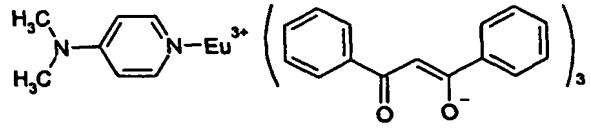
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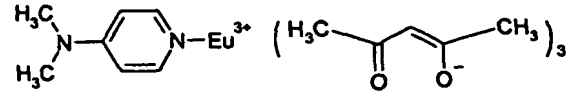
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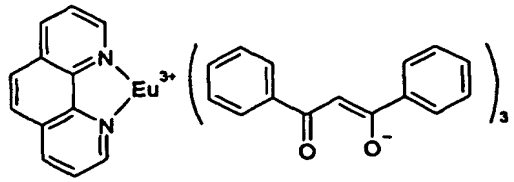
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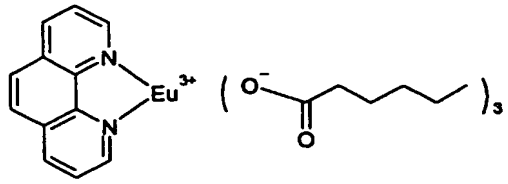

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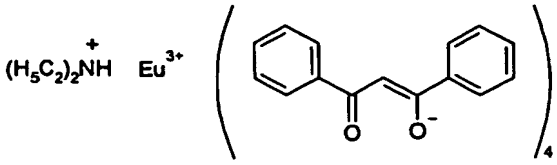

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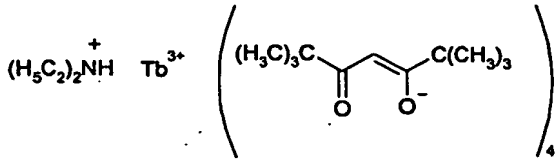

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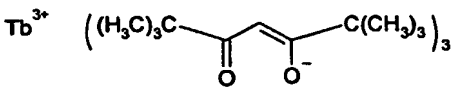

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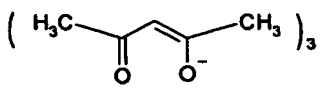

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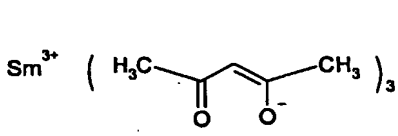

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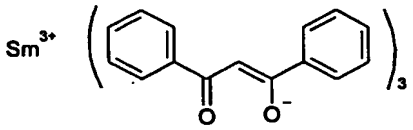

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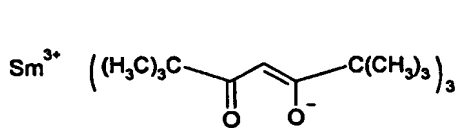

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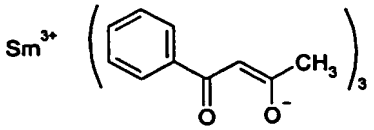

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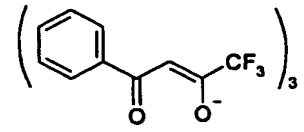

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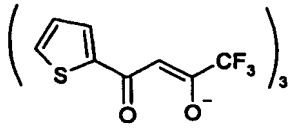

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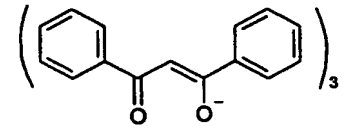

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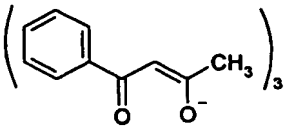

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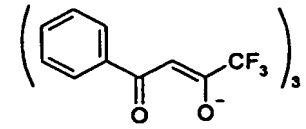

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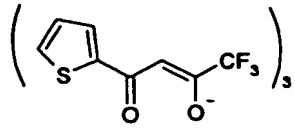

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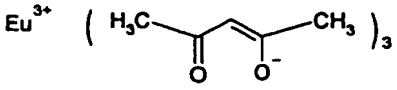
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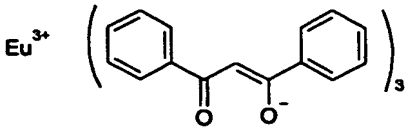
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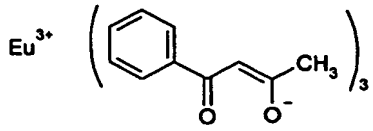
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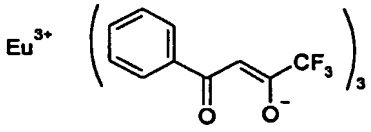
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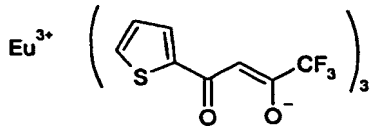
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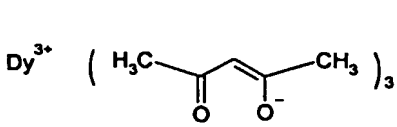
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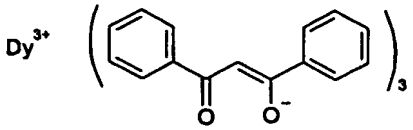
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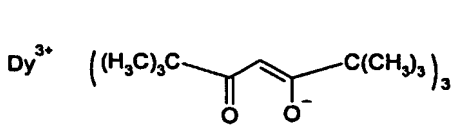
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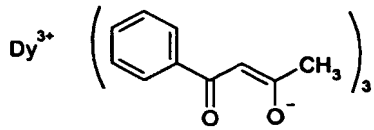
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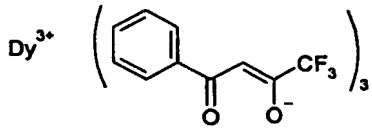
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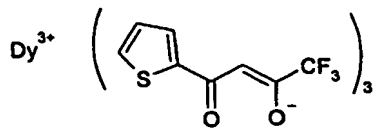
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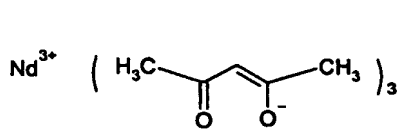
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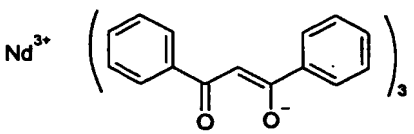
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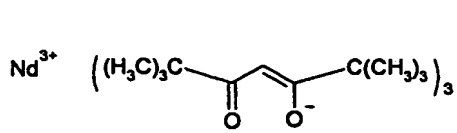
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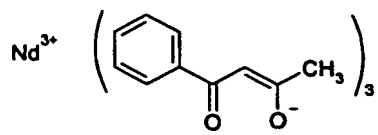
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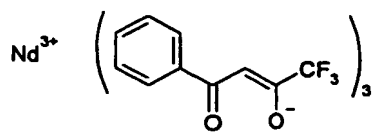
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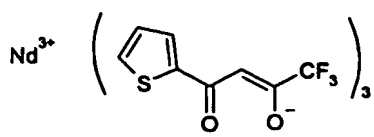
(LII),

11. A process according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that component (b) is water, one or more water-miscible organic solvents or a mixture of water and one or more water-miscible organic solvents.

12. A process according to claim 11 characterized in that the water-miscible organic solvent is an aliphatic alcohol, etheralcohol, glycol, aliphatic ketone, carboxylic acid ester, carboxylic acid amide, aliphatic nitrile, aliphatic polyether or aliphatic sulfoxide.

13. A process according to claim 11 characterized in that the water-miscible organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, 2-butoxyethanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, acetone, 2-butanone, ethyl acetate, tetrahydrofurane (THF), dimethylformamide (DMF), dimethylacetamide (DMA), N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), acetonitrile, polyethyleneglycol dimethyether and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO).

14. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the formulation contains 0.01 to 20.0 % by weight of component (a) and 80.0 to 99.99 % by weight of component (b), based on the total amount of components (a) + (b).

15. A process according to claim 1 characterized in that the formulation contains additionally (c) one or more colorants.

16. A process for the preparation of luminescent plastics characterized in that the plastics material is extruded in the presence of 0.01 – 10.0 % by weight, based on the amount of polymeric material, of a compound of formula II or III according to claim 3.

17. A luminescent textile fibre prepared by the process according to claim 1.

18. A luminescent plastic prepared by the process according to claim 16.

19. A process according to claim 1 wherein the polymeric fibres are paper fibres or synthetic fibres.

20. The use of the process according to claim 1 for the preparation of anti-counterfeit documents, cards, cheques or banknotes.